

CLAIMS

1. An actuator for an inhaler for delivering medicament by inhalation, comprising:
a main body (2) comprising a tubular member (8) for receiving a canister (7)
containing medicament and having a valve stem (11) extending therefrom; and
an outlet assembly (4), as a part formed separately of the main body (2), comprising a
mouthpiece for guiding medicament to the mouth of a user and a nozzle block (20) for
receiving the valve stem (11) of the canister (7) and delivering medicament from the
canister (7) into the mouthpiece;
wherein at least a part of at least one of the main body (2) and the outlet assembly (4)
is configured so as to deform or break on separating the outlet assembly (4) from the
main body (2) so as to prevent re-use of the actuator;
characterized in that the main body (2) and the outlet assembly (4) are composed of
materials having different constitution.
- 15 2. The actuator according to claim 1, wherein the tubular member (8) includes a lateral
opening (14) at one end thereof for receiving the outlet assembly (4) at an angle
transverse to the length thereof.
- 20 3. The actuator according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the tubular member (8) includes an
opening (10) at one end thereof through which a canister (7) is in use fitted.
4. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the main body (2) further
comprises a foot (12) at one end of the tubular member (8) thereof which is configured
such that, with a canister (7) fitted therein, the actuator will stand unsupported with the
tubular member (8) extending generally vertically.
- 25 5. The actuator according to claim 4, wherein the bottom surface of the foot (12) includes
a recess (12a) for receiving a thumb or a finger of a user.

6. The actuator according to claim 5, wherein the recess (12a) is concave.
7. The actuator according to claim 4, wherein the bottom surface of the foot (12) is flat.

5 8. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 7, further comprising a breath actuation mechanism.

9. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 8, further comprising a compliance monitor, in particular a dose counter.

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10. The actuator according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the main body (2) comprises one or both of the breath actuation mechanism and the compliance monitor.

15 11. The actuator according to claim 10 when appended upon any of claims 4 to 7, wherein the foot (12) comprises one or both of the breath actuation mechanism and the compliance monitor.

12. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the outlet assembly (4) is formed as a single integral moulding.

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13. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 12, wherein the nozzle block (20) includes a bore (40) having an opening for receiving the valve stem (11) of a canister (7) and a spray orifice (42) configured to direct a spray into the mouthpiece.

25 14. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 13, wherein the outlet assembly (4) is configured to deform or be broken in being separated from the main body (2).

15. The actuator according to claim 14, wherein a connection between the mouthpiece and the nozzle block (20) is configured at least in part to break on separating the outlet assembly (4) from the main body (2).

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16. The actuator according to claim 15, wherein the connection between the mouthpiece and the nozzle block (20) comprises at least one member (36) connecting a lower part of the mouthpiece with a lower part of the nozzle block (20) and at least one member (38) connecting an upper part of the mouthpiece with an upper part of the nozzle block (20), with the at least one member (36) connecting a lower part of the mouthpiece with a lower part of the nozzle block (20) being configured to break on separating the outlet assembly (4) from the main body (2).

10 17. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 16, wherein the main body (2) and the outlet assembly (4) are configured so as to snap-fit together.

18. The actuator according to any of claims 1 to 17, wherein the main body (2) and the outlet assembly (4) are of different colour.

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19. An inhaler comprising the actuator according to any of claims 1 to 18 and a canister (7) containing medicament.

20 20. The inhaler according to claim 19, wherein the inhaler is a pressurised metered dose inhaler.